

National Red Witchweed Eradication Programme 2015-16 to 2017-18

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the national red witchweed eradication programme from 2015-16 to 2017-18 and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contribution to Queensland, the combatant state for this eradication programme.
2. The national red witchweed eradication programme is being conducted as a National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement-like (NEBRA-like) response.
3. The emergency response plan *Red Witchweed (Striga asiatica) Response Plan 2015-2018 v1.8* is approved by the National Biosecurity Management Group (NBMG) in accordance with the NEBRA on 14 June 2015.
4. The financial commitments are approved by the Agricultural Ministers Forum (AGMIN) subject to budget considerations. The 2015-16 to 2017-18 budget was approved by the AGMIN on 19 April 2016.
5. This Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the national red witchweed eradication programme in accordance with the provisions of the NEBRA.

PART 2: FORMALITIES

6. The Parties to this Schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland.
7. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland ministers with portfolio responsibility for national biosecurity emergency management. It will expire on 30 June 2018, or upon completion or termination of the national red witchweed eradication programme as determined by the NMG, including endorsement of the final project report and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

PART 3: PROJECT ELEMENTS AND MILESTONES

8. The project elements of the eradication programme are described in the *Red Witchweed (Striga asiatica) Response Plan 2015-2018 v1.8*. Queensland is responsible for delivering the following elements in accordance with the Response Plan:
 - (a) *Treatment*
 - i. Three treatment methods will be applied to specific zones within each infested property.
 - (b) *Surveillance*
 - i. Delimiting the pest presence and abundance on the seven infested properties.

- (c) *Proof of freedom*
 - i. Proof of freedom will be achieved if there is no seedling emergence for a period of five years after treatment and consistent surveillance and monitoring.
- (d) *Owner Reimbursement Costs*
 - i. Owner reimbursement costs to be paid to affected cane property owners.
- (e) *Research*
 - i. Provide information on pest biology, epidemiology and ecology; detection methods and the efficacy of control techniques.
- (f) *Community engagement*
 - i. Management of messaging to protect industry interests, staged roll-out of activities and program reach based on information availability and response priorities, broader community awareness and contribution to surveillance activities.

9. To qualify for the associated payment, Queensland must meet the following milestones:

Table 1: Milestones

| Milestones | Due date | Payment |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Agricultural Ministers Forum agreement on the budget and commencement of the Response Plan | May 2016 | \$1,972,820 |
| Annual progress report (2015-16) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan | April 2017 | \$369,402 |
| Annual progress report (2016-17) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan | April 2018 | \$378,124 |

PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

- 10. Queensland will report against the agreed milestones as outlined in Table 1.
- 11. Reporting may also be required under the NEBRA arrangements.

PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 12. The Commonwealth's agreed financial contribution for the National Red Witchweed Eradication Programme is outlined in Table 2 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 1. All payments are exclusive of GST.
- 13. The national response for the eradication of red witchweed is outside of the national arrangements for the eradication of exotic plant pest and animal diseases. The response plan is not under any formal deed arrangement so final decisions on the eradication programme and budget are made by AGMIN. Accordingly, the Commonwealth is not required to meet the industry party's cost sharing obligations.

Table 2: Estimated financial contributions

| | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Commonwealth | \$1,972,820 | \$369,402 | \$378,124 |

PART 6: SIGN OFF

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of
Australia by*



Date 5-5-16

Signature

**The Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources**

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland
by*



Date 8/6/16

Signature

**The Honourable Leanne Donaldson MP
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries**